

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST BOUND

*Canadian folk and Americana singer-songwriter Mike McKenna Jr announces the May 26th release of his debut full-length album, funded by FACTOR and Canada Council for the Arts.*

**Montreal, QC, May 19, 2017**—Based out of Canada's trendy and creative hub city Montreal, Quebec, Nova Scotia-born artist Mike McKenna Jr has been garnering the attention of the North American folk and Americana music scenes with his powerful and soulful voice, and authentic stories, ever since the Spring 2016 release of his introspective folk-roots inspired EP entitled 'Travelin Man':

*"An authentic, golden, raspy voice that sings comfortably over folk-driven rhythmic guitar lines... His personal, nostalgic lyrics are wonderfully descriptive giving his music a relatable and also gorgeously humble tone." - Spotify Community.*

His newest project was granted funding by both of Canada's two major government arts foundations, FACTOR Canada (The Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent on Records) and the Canada Council for the Arts, and was produced by 2x Félix award-winner and Canadian Folk Music Award-nominated, Simon Marion. Entitled 'Pacific Northwest Bound', it will make for a unique and interesting mashup of modern and antiquated subject matter as listeners get a chance to hear dark and dusted-off tragic stories and sea shanties from his native Maritimes, but with a focus on a much more current, millennial perspective.

The album features a multitude of guests from the Montreal music scene, including Béatrix Méthé (vocal harmonies) and Colin Savoie-Levac (electric guitar), both from Quebec traditional folk group 'Les Poules a Colin', Ostereo Records singer-songwriter Jesse Daniel Smith (electric guitar), Kalmunity Jazz Projects' Mark Haynes (electric bass) and sessions musicians Eric Breton (percussion) and Frédéric Beauséjour (upright bass). With many of the musicians chosen from the Quebec folk and trad music scenes, the album has a distinctive acoustic-roots base, but was also lifted up with modern production; traditional acoustic instruments like banjo, guitar, fiddle, mandolin and dobro sit comfortably alongside contemporary effects created with electric guitars, haunting synths and numerous ambient but at times unrecognizable sounds. Together McKenna and Marion were able to create beautifully balanced and unpredictable soundscapes throughout the album, giving each song and story its own distinct atmosphere and setting.

In 'Pacific Northwest Bound' McKenna goes deep in connecting his music and personal experiences with real historical references; many of the songs were inspired by the musical works, stories and poetry gathered by Nova Scotian academics, anthropologists and folklorists Helen Creighton and W. Roy MacKenzie, both of whom recorded and amassed substantial collections of East Coast folklore during their lifetimes. There are also several songs that at first glance appear to be American folk songs, specifically the opening track 'America' and the reimagined classic 'Bright Sunny South', made popular by Doc Watson and Alison Krauss' Union Station, but upon closer inspection they turn out to be of Canadian subject matter and origin. This was meant to highlight the often unnoticed but continuous exchange of culture and heritage between the two neighbouring countries, and further reflects McKenna's own dual citizenship and identity between Canada and the United States.

'Pacific Northwest Bound' is scheduled for release on Friday May 26th, 2017, and will be available digitally on all available platforms (Spotify, Apple Music, Soundcloud, Bandcamp) as well as physical copies available for purchase through his official website, [www.mikemckennajr.com](http://www.mikemckennajr.com). If you do happen to be in the Pacific Northwest this summer, be sure to catch Mike debuting songs from his new record at the Vancouver Island Musicfest, July 14-16, tickets and passes are available at <http://www.islandmusicfest.com/tickets/>.